IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (withdrawn)

Please amend claims 19 and 20 as follows:

14. (Original) A stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate prepared according to the method of claim 1.

15. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate of claim 14, wherein said conjugate has a heat-stressed stability of about seven days at about 45° C.

16. (Original) The conjugate of claim 14, wherein said glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate has a shelf life of about eighteen months at about 4° C.

17. (Original) The conjugate of claim 14, wherein said glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate has an on-instrument stability of 53 days.

18. (Original) A stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation, comprising:

a) a bidentate conjugate comprising a glycopeptide antibiotic member bound to a ligand, said ligand being bound to a ligand-binding partner immobilized on a solid support; and

b) at least one stabilizing agent that prevents dimerization of said glycopeptide antibiotic member, wherein said bidentate conjugate and said stabilizing agent are dissolved in a diluent buffer having a neutral pH.

19. (Currently amended) [The method of claim 18,] The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 18, wherein said glycopeptide antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of vancomycin, eremomycin, and ristocetin A.

20. (Currently amended) [The method of claim 17,] The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 17, wherein said antibiotic is vancomycin.

21. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 18, wherein said stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of Nα,Nβ-diacetyl-L-lysine-

D-alanine-D-alanine, heparin, acteyl-D-alanine-D-alanine and acetyl-D-alanine-D-alanine-D-alanine.

22. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 18, wherein said solid support is a carrier particle selected from the group consisting of latex particles, metallic particles, colloidal metals and colloidal metal oxides.

23. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 22, wherein said carrier particles are latex particles.

24. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 23, wherein said latex particles having said ligand binding partner immobilized thereon are heat-stressed.

25. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 18, wherein said ligand is biotin.

26. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 25, wherein said ligand-binding partner is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, and an anti-biotin antibody.

27. (Original) The stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation of claim 18, further comprising one or more rate enhancers selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, polyethylene glycol, 1,3 diaminopropane and 1,2-diaminopropane.

28. (Original) A stabilized vancomycin conjugate formulation for use in a homogeneous assay of vancomycin in a test sample, comprising a biotinylated vancomycin bound to a biotin-binding partner, said biotin-binding partner being immobilized on a solid support, wherein said vancomycin conjugate has a heat-stressed stability of at least 7 days at 45° C or a shelf life of at least 18 months at 4° C.

29. (Original) The formulation of claim 28, further comprising at least one stabilizing agent that prevents dimerization of said vancomycin member.

30. (Original) The formulation of claim 29, wherein said stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of Nα,Nβ-diacetyl-L-lysine-D-alanine-D-alanine, heparin, acteyl-D-alanine-D-alanine and acetyl-D-alanine-D-alanine-D-alanine.

Claims 31-49 (withdrawn)

50. (Original) A test kit for detecting the presence of a glycopeptide antibiotic in a test sample, comprising:

a) an assay medium;

b) a stabilized glycopeptide antibiotic conjugate formulation, comprising:

(i) a bidentate conjugate comprising a glycopeptide antibiotic member bound to a ligand, said ligand being bound to a ligand-binding partner immobilized on a solid support; and

(ii) at least one stabilizing agent that prevents dimerization of said glycopeptide antibiotic member, wherein said bidentate conjugate and said stabilizing agent are dissolved in a conjugate diluent having a neutral pH; and

c) an anti- glycopeptide antibiotic antibody.

51. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said glycopeptide antibiotic is selected from the group consisting of vancomycin, eremomycin, and ristocetin A.

52. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said glycopeptide antibiotic is vancomycin.

53. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of Nα,Nε-diacetyl-D-alanine-D-alanine-L-lysine, heparin, acteyl-D-alanine-D-alanine and acetyl-D-alanine-D-alanine-D-alanine.

54. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, further comprising one or more rate enhancers to enhance the binding of said antibody to said glycopeptide antibiotic in said sample or to said glycopeptide antibiotic member.

55. (Original) The test kit of claim 54, wherein said rate enhancer is selected from the group consisting of a lower molecular weight amine and a mixture of a lower molecular weight amine and polyethylene glycol.

56. (Original) The test kit of claim 54, wherein said lower molecular weight amine is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, 1,2-diaminopropane and 1,3-diaminopropane.

57. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, further comprising a dose response modulator.

58. (Original) The test kit of claim 57, wherein said dose response modulator is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, 1,2-diaminopropane 1,3-diaminopropane, Nα,Nε-diacetyl-D-alanine-D-alanine-L-lysine and a detergent.

59. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said ligand is biotin.

60. (Original) The test kit of claim 59, wherein said ligand-binding partner is selected from the group consisting of avidin, streptavidin, and an anti-biotin antibody.

61. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said assay medium is a TRIS buffer, a phosphate buffer, or a borate buffer.

62. (Original) The test kit of claim 50, wherein said solid support is carrier particles selected from the group consisting of latex particles, metallic particles, colloidal metals and colloidal metal oxides.

63. (Original) The test kit of claim 62, wherein said carrier particles are latex particles.

64. (Original) The test kit of claim 62, wherein said latex particles having said ligand binding partner immobilized thereon are heat-stressed.

Claims 65-74 (withdrawn)